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Transcriber's Office

March 29, 2000 LB 223, 1167

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I'm going to be brief. I just want to say that I concur in the remarks that Senator Kristensen made. It would clearly be my interpretation of the language that the court order could only appoint a CASA as a friend of the court; that the language does not permit the appointment of a CASA as a guardian ad litem or as a co-guardian ad litem. I will be interested, with Senator Suttle, to research the Juvenile Code and determine whether or not laypersons can, in fact, be appointed guardian ad litem. Obviously, it is my view this evening that that should not be the case. If that is the case that be, I think that should be reformed as well. Children, like everyone else, have the right and the...and it is in their best interest to be represented by those persons who know not only something about them as individuals but also know the laws that can be applied to their case, and they will be not...they will not be served well unless they have that kind of service and attention paid to their needs and to their circumstances. It is not appropriate to appoint laypersons as guardian ad litem under any circumstance.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Suttle, on the Kristensen amendment. Senator Suttle, did you wish to speak to the Kristensen amendment?

SENATOR SUTTLE: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I do...I do agree to Senator Kristensen's amendment. Just for their information, in the original bill in LB 223, in...in Section 43-272 it says, "The court, on its own motion or upon application of a party to the proceedings, shall appoint a guardian ad litem for the juvenile", and then it gives a bunch of things that it goes through and then it says, "Except in cases when there are special reasons why a particular layperson would be the most appropriate guardian ad litem for the juvenile". The...Senator Kristensen, did you have...I think the section is 43-272.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Are you asking for a response, Senator Suttle?

SENATOR SUTTLE: He wanted to know what section. Off the mike, he said what section was I in, and I answered. So that is my concern. I am willing to...to go ahead and put the Kristensen